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LETTER DATED 18 JUNE 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF BRAZIL TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to enclose a statement of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries, adopted in Lisbon on 17 June 1998 on the situation in Guinea-Bissau.

As Brazil now holds the presidency of the Council of the Community, I would like to kindly request you to circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of Security Council.

(Signed) Celso L. N. AMORIM
Permanent Representative of Brazil

98-17259 (E) 180698

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Annex

Statement of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries on the situation in Guinea-Bissau

The Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries, recalling the Declaration of the Permanent Committee of Consultation on Guinea-Bissau, reiterate their serious concern with the situation that continues to affect this member State of the Community and issue a vehement appeal for the rapid re-establishment of peace and the solution of the conflict through negotiated and pacific means.

The Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries express their profound distress at the loss of human life caused by the conflict and their readiness to provide aid and humanitarian assistance in order to minimize the suffering of the people of Guinea-Bissau.

The Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries, aware of the political solidarity that is required by all member States and the close relations that unite them, will make every possible stride that may lead to the solution of the current crisis in Guinea-Bissau within the framework of our Community, thus adhering to its primary vocation, as established in its constitutive documents, of political and diplomatic consultation and reinforcement of the bonds of cooperation among its seven member States.

In that context, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs and the Executive Secretary of the Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries hereby declare their readiness to help provide a diplomatic solution to the crisis and their support for any initiative that may put an end to the conflict affecting Guinea-Bissau.